

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows. Paragraph 0089 has been amended.

[0089] The ~~preset~~ present invention has been described with reference to a preferred embodiment, but is not limited to that embodiment; various modifications are within the scope of the present invention. In the above-described embodiment, vehicle A in Fig. 1 sends communication data to vehicles within the area S. On the contrary, the present invention is also applicable to a case where a vehicle (vehicle F2, for example) within the area S which has received a message from vehicle A sends back a response message to vehicle A. For this purpose, it should be taken into consideration that the position of vehicle A changes while communication data is being exchanged. Thus, vehicle F2 needs to estimate when the response reaches vehicle A (estimated time of response arrival) and where vehicle A is located when it receives the communication data containing the response message (estimated driving position) using the communication processor 112, and then set this estimated driving position as the target position in the data section of the communication data, as shown in Fig. 4. In this manner, vehicle F2 is able to send the response in the direction (second particular direction) towards the target position thus determined. For example, if sending communication data containing a response message to vehicle A, vehicle F2 is able to calculate how long it takes to pass a message from vehicle ~~F1~~ F2 to vehicle A (one way) by subtracting the "transmission-start time" value contained in the received communication data from the time when vehicle ~~F1~~ F2 received the communication data. The communication processor 112 of vehicle F2 is then able to calculate the round trip time of communication data (that is, the time from when vehicle A sends communication data to when vehicle A receives communication data containing a response message) by multiplying this calculated time by two or by adding the processing time required for sending the response message to the calculated time multiplied by two. The communication data sent from vehicle A contains the planned driving route and the driving speed of vehicle A. Based on this planned driving route and driving speed, the communication processor 112 of

vehicle F2 is able to estimate how much vehicle A moves over this round-trip period of time.

When calculating the position of vehicle A, the communication processor 112 of vehicle F2 need not use the planned driving route and the driving speed contained in the received communication data; instead, the communication processor 112 may use the planned driving route and the average driving speed determined according to the width and road type of the planned driving route or a constant driving speed irrespective of the width and road type of the route.